

THE CAPITAL BUDGET

INTRODUCTION

Capital expenditures are costs that the County incurs while building permanent facilities such as schools, libraries, fire stations and roads. These expenses are programmed in the Capital Improvement Program (CIP), which is the County's plan for constructing capital facilities during the next six years. The CIP provides a detailed, year-by-year schedule of all planned construction projects and the annual spending and financing requirements of each project.

The Capital Budget consists of expenditures to be made in the first year of the Capital Improvement Program and provides the appropriation authority to spend the funds needed to initiate or continue work on capital projects during the budget year. By serving as a vehicle for implementing the County's long-range physical development goals and policies, the Capital Budget is the framework within which all County development activities occur, whether it be for constructing new facilities or extending the usable life of existing facilities.

Since capital facilities provide benefits over a long period of time, the County normally spreads out their costs, paying for them through general obligation bonds and other forms of long-term indebtedness. This ensures that capital costs are not borne solely by today's taxpayers, but that future beneficiaries of capital projects also help to pay for them.

FY2004 Capital Budget

The FY2004 Capital Budget consists of 311 projects at a total cost of \$490.6 million. When subtracting the \$111.9 million associated with Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission projects, and the \$25.1 million associated with the Redevelopment Authority and \$18.5 million associated with Industrial Development Authority, the County's portion of the capital budget amounts to \$335.1 million. The amount of County general obligation bonds programmed for sale in FY2004 to support capital budget expenditures is \$103.4 million.

The County's FY2004 Capital Budget includes new project initiations for the school system and the County. Funds are included to replace a high school, and to construct additions to six high schools. At the elementary level, the capital budget contains construction funds for eleven new elementary schools. Also included are four school renovation projects. Major County projects include the Oxon Hill Library Renovation, the Detention Center Expansion, the Duvall Wing Courthouse renovation, and the Marbury Wing Courthouse addition. Also funded are portions of over fifty road and bridge improvement projects. As well, the Capital Budget includes projects that will maintain the County's building stock and infrastructure by providing funds for large repair items, road resurfacing, and curb and sidewalk repairs.

Capital projects are not usually completed in a single fiscal year, and the funds contained in the Capital Budget customarily support only a particular phase of a project, such as design, land acquisition or construction. Medium and large projects can take two to three years to complete and are incorporated in the County's six-year Capital Improvement Program.

FY2004-2009 Capital Improvement Program

The FY2004-2009 Capital Improvement Program consists of 414 projects at a total cost of just over \$1.5 billion, including projects for the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, and the Redevelopment, Revenue, and Industrial Development Authority.

A summary of the FY2004-2009 Capital Improvement Program showing expenditures by agency or program follows.

FY2004 Capital Budget Expenditures

The education and health portion of the Capital Budget comprises \$146.7 million, or 29.9% of the total. Included in this category is funding for the Board of Education, the Prince George's Community College, the Prince George's Memorial Library and the Health Department. Projects in this category include the rehabilitation and

expansion of current facilities, and the design and construction of new schools. Funds going to the public school system account for 87.9% of the total. Funding for this program segment comes from the sale of general obligation bonds and from State aid. Approximately 59% of the six-year school construction program is supported by local funds, with the State paying for the remainder. Under the current State funding formula, the State will pay for 75% of all eligible school construction costs up to the first \$35 million allocated. For awards over \$35 million, the State will pay 60% of eligible costs. This formula will be in effect through FY2007, although in FY2004, the State to-date, citing financial constraints, has only allocated \$6.7 million to the County for school construction. The County and State share in the construction costs for Community College facilities.

The transportation and economic development component of the FY2004 Capital Budget is budgeted at \$131.9 million, or 26.9 % of the total. These funds will be used for the construction and rehabilitation of County roads and bridges, as well as for the construction of mass transit related facilities such as fringe parking lots. Transportation funding comes primarily from general obligation bonds. Additional revenues come from developer contributions and from the Federal government, primarily in support of the bridge construction program. Included in this category are Neighborhood Improvement Program projects that are funded with Community Development Block Grant monies from the Federal Government. Also included here are projects that come under the auspices of the Revenue Authority and the Redevelopment Authority.

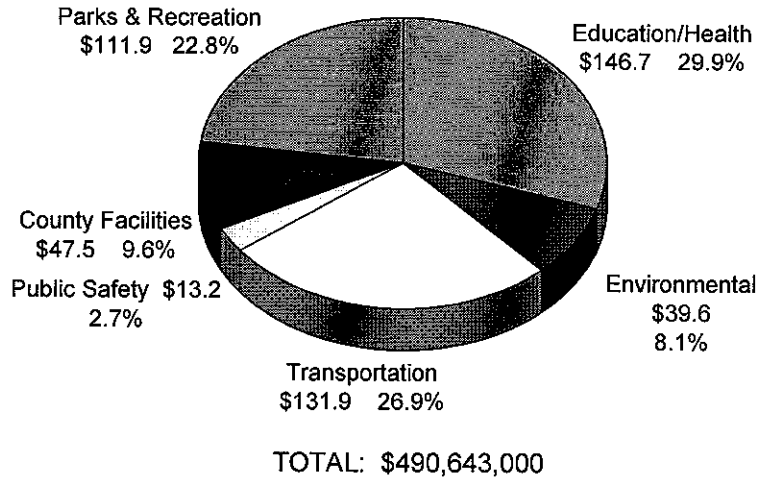
A third large portion of capital budget spending is for parks and recreation facilities, accounting for \$111.9 million, or 22.8% of the total programmed for FY2004. Included in the FY2004 program are a large number of previously approved, but yet to be constructed projects. This part of the capital program is administered by the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission. Funding comes from a combination of sources that includes the sale of bonds by the Commission, State aid under Program Open Space, developer contributions, and contributions from operating revenues. These expenditures will be used for the acquisition of park land and for the development of park facilities, ranging from the purchase of playground equipment to the construction of new community centers.

Another segment of the FY2004 capital budget amounting to 8.1%, or \$39.6 million, will be devoted to projects aimed at improving the environment. The two major areas that are addressed under the environmental category are solid waste management and stormwater management. Solid waste management capital projects are funded with either general obligation or revenue bonds. The debt service costs for these revenue bonds are supported by tipping fees charged to trash haulers, and other revenues collected by the Solid Waste Management Enterprise Fund.



FY2004 Proposed Capital Budget Expenditures

(\$ Millions)



The construction of public safety and other County facilities comprises the remainder of the FY2004 Capital Budget. Together, these two functions account for 12.3% of the FY2004 Capital Budget, or \$60.7 million. The public safety category includes facilities for the Police, Fire and Corrections departments. Projects in the six-year program include the construction and rehabilitation of fire stations, the expansion of the Correctional Center and the construction of a driver training course. Projects under the County facilities portion of the Capital Budget consist primarily of renovations to current facilities, including the renovation of the Duvall Wing of the County Courthouse. The funding for projects in these categories comes from the sale of general obligation bonds.

KEY COMPONENTS OF THE FY2004 CAPITAL BUDGET
(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY2004 PROPOSED CAPITAL BUDGET (DOLLARS)	FY2004 PROPOSED CAPITAL BUDGET (PERCENT)
EXPENDITURES		
EDUCATION/HUMAN SERVICES	\$ 146,651	29.9
ENVIRONMENTAL	39,558	8.1
TRANSPORTATION & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	131,876	26.9
PUBLIC SAFETY	13,228	2.7
COUNTY FACILITIES	47,452	9.7
PARKS & RECREATION	111,878	22.8
TOTAL	\$ 490,643	100.0
REVENUES*		
GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS	\$ 227,603	46.4
REVENUE BONDS	9,828	2.0
FEDERAL/STATE AID	134,859	27.5
M-NCPPC BONDS	13,483	2.7
OTHER FUNDS	104,870	21.4
TOTAL	\$ 490,643	100.0

***Revenues supporting FY04 Capital Expenditures
include previously sold general obligation bonds.**

SUMMARY OF THE FY2004-2009 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM
EXPENDITURES, BY AGENCY OR PROGRAM

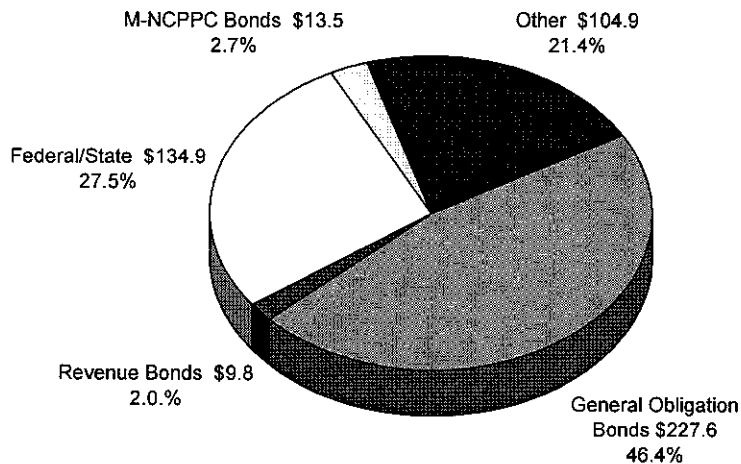
(Dollars in Thousands)

AGENCY/PROGRAM	FY2004 PROPOSED CAPITAL BUDGET	FY2004-2009 PROPOSED CAPITAL PROGRAM
Board of Education	\$ 128,844	\$ 566,594
Stormwater Management	16,606	62,329
Parks and Recreation	111,878	179,634
Industrial Development Authority	18,500	20,865
Public Works & Transportation	98,435	348,300
Library	6,357	11,957
Health	508	639
Corrections	5,711	7,967
Police	0	7,994
Fire/EMS	7,517	36,944
Solid Waste Management	22,952	50,446
Community College	10,942	75,145
Central Services	28,952	51,952
Revenue Authority	0	33,240
Redevelopment Authority	25,141	59,691
Federal Programs	8,300	8,300
TOTAL	\$490,643	\$1,521,997



FY2004 Proposed Capital Budget Revenues

(\$ Millions)



TOTAL: \$490,643,000

Revenues

The FY2004 Capital Budget is supported by multiple revenue sources. General obligation bonds comprise an important component, at \$227.6 or 46.4% of the total. Revenue bonds account for a large segment—\$9.8 million or 2.0% of the total. Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission bonds support 2.7% of the total at \$13.5 million. Federal and State aid provides \$134.9 million, or 27.5% of the Capital Budget. The remaining \$104.9 million or 21.4% is comprised of miscellaneous revenues and developer contributions. In all, 72.5% of the program is supported by locally-raised revenues. The FY2004 Capital Budget is supported by revenues received in prior fiscal years and by new sources to be generated in FY2004.

Relationship Between Debt Levels and Current Operations

Of prime importance in determining the size and scope of the County's capital program is the amount of debt to be financed annually, and consequently the County's ability to afford the resulting debt service payments. To ensure that capital spending levels do not adversely impact the operating budget and the County's ability to maintain current services in future fiscal years, existing debt levels are carefully monitored. The County is guided in issuing new debt by strict policy directives intended to maintain its financial stability. Measurable standards in the form of key ratios have been established to track the levels of outstanding debt and debt service expenditures.

The two principal debt ratios used by the County as debt policy guidelines are: a) the ratio of net direct debt to assessed value, and b) the ratio of debt service to general fund expenditures. New debt is undertaken only to the extent that it will not jeopardize conformance to the standards set for each of these measures.

Limiting debt service payments as a percentage of operating expenditures assures that other operating budget items will not be short-changed in future year budget allocations. Debt service becomes a fixed expense that has first call on local dollars, so adhering to the expenditure ratio ceiling limits new debt to total budgetary growth. County policy provides that the ratio of General Fund debt service to General Fund expenditures will not exceed 8%. The current level of this ratio is 3.9% as of June 30, 2002, which is well within this limit.

Tying debt service to the ratio of net direct debt to assessed value is particularly useful because there are direct links between an expanding assessable base, infrastructure requirements, and the ability to support additional debt. Growth in the County's assessable base is directly tied to the property tax revenue stream, so increases in the base quickly translate into additional dollars that can potentially be spent to support debt payments. County policy limits net direct debt to no more than 3.0% of the full market assessed value; the County's statutory debt limit under the Annotated Code of Maryland is 6% of its assessable base. The County remains well below this limit, with the ratio at 1.3% for the fiscal year ending June 30 2002.

The General Assembly, during its 2000 session, revised the formula for the calculation of the assessable base by converting to an assessment system based on full (100%) market value. The former system used forty percent of market value for assessment purposes. This change, which is revenue neutral for the State and its local jurisdictions, has the effect of increasing the assessable base, but the legal debt limit decreases accordingly to 6% (it was at 15%). This change was effective as of FY2002. The assessable base chart appearing later in this section uses the assessment (based upon the full market value) that took effect in FY2002.

The use of these two ratios permits the County to maintain flexibility in its capital financing program. As the County's wealth and revenues increase, larger amounts of debt can be issued without the risk of exceeding designated targets for these ratios, as long as overall General Fund spending does not increase disproportionately. This allows the County to meet its infrastructure requirements without infringing upon operating budget needs.

Operating Impacts

The construction of capital projects affects the operating budget in several ways. The major effect comes from the interest and principal payments needed to support the debt issued for construction. General obligation bonds of approximately \$124.2 million have previously been authorized to partially support projects contained in the FY2004 Capital Budget. Additional general obligation bonds of \$103.4 million will be sold during FY2004 to fully fund FY2004 capital expenditures.

A second impact of capital construction relates to the cost of operating completed facilities. When capital projects represent renovations of existing facilities or infrastructure, the impacts on the operating budget are minimal. For example, no measurable new operating impacts result from road reconstruction or resurfacing efforts, or from the renovation of a fire station. In the case of resurfacing, road maintenance costs should decrease, resulting in operating budget savings.

On the other hand, capital projects that represent new initiatives or that add additional space to existing facilities do impact the operating budget. The most significant effect occurs when additional personnel must be hired to staff the newly constructed facility. Other impacts can include custodial, utility and maintenance costs. If a new building is a replacement for an existing structure, however, the additional expenses are usually minor, and in some instances the occupants may even realize cost savings.

An issue that must be addressed when estimating the operational impacts of new facilities is the degree to which additional service costs would be incurred even without the construction of a new facility. For example, additional student enrollment would, assuming relatively stable class size ratios, demand an increase in the number of teachers employed, whether the students were housed in a new facility or absorbed into the current classroom inventory. By housing the additional enrollment in a new school building, the direct budgetary impact of the new construction consists of staff and expenses needed for the operation of the new facility—for instance, a principal, administrative and custodial personnel, and utilities. The hiring of additional teachers would not be a direct result of facility construction in this case. The analysis that follows considers only the direct impacts of capital construction.

A different type of impact occurs when a new facility requires the addition of staff, but the necessary staff are initially taken from the existing personnel complement of an operating agency without hiring new employees. In this case, an operating impact has been assigned since at some point in time the full staffing level will most likely be restored throughout the agency.

At times, operational costs can be offset either by revenue produced by a facility, such as a parking garage, or by leased space savings. These savings are also considered in the analysis.

The table below summarizes the estimated operating impacts for the next three fiscal years of major projects to be completed during FY2003, and commencing operation for the first time in FY2004. The additional costs are shown in each year in which they occur. Thus, a new facility generating additional operating costs in FY2004 is assumed to generate similar expenses in FY2005 and FY2006; no provision has been made for inflation. Estimates are not included for the park and recreation category since operating costs for these facilities are not funded by the County budget. Debt Service impacts are based upon a FY2003 bond sale.

Operating Impacts of the Capital Budget on the General Fund
(FY2003 Completed Projects)

(Dollars in Thousands)

Source of Operating Impact	FY2004	FY2005	FY2006
Operating Expenses			
Education			
<u>Elementary Schools</u>			
Samuel P. Massie Elementary	\$2,100	\$2,100	\$2,100
Oxon Hill Elementary*	1,050	2,100	2,100
Colmar Manor Elementary*	1,050	2,100	2,100
Health			
Cheverly Renovation		Building Renovation - no impact	
Fire			
Bunker Hill Fire Station Consolidation	(220)	(220)	(220)
Debt Service - Net Tax -Supported Debt**	3,187	3,482	3,967
TOTAL	\$7,187	\$9,562	\$10,047

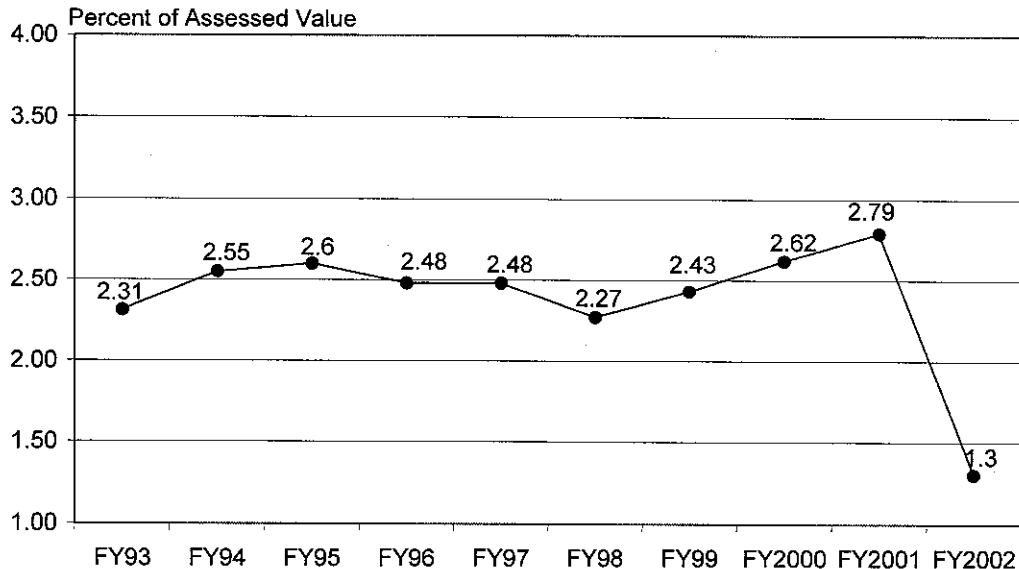
*Mid year opening.

**Based on a \$72.7 million bond sale in December 2002 of net tax supportable debt.

Debt Service Impact

The chart on the following page depicts the ratio of net direct debt to assessed value. Over the last ten years, this ratio has remained relatively constant. A substantial amount of new school debt (44%), however, is being paid from a dedicated revenue source - the School Surcharge, helping to keep debt ratios level.

Ratio of Net Direct Debt to Assessed Value*



*The General Assembly during its 2000 session revised the formula for the calculation of the assessable base by converting to an assessment system based on full market value. The former system used forty percent of market value for assessment purposes. This change, which is revenue neutral for the State and its local jurisdictions, will have the effect of increasing the assessable base, but the legal debt limit will decrease accordingly to 6%. This change became effective in FY2002. The assessable base chart appearing above uses a debt ratio based upon the new assessment system that took effect at the end of FY2002. Had the old system remained in effect, the ratio for FY2002 would have been 2.72%

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE CAPITAL BUDGET

The following pages summarize the highlights and discuss measurable operating impacts of the FY2004 Capital Budget by functional area. The expenditure amounts noted in the project highlight sections are the total project cost, including amounts spent previously for projects appearing in the capital budget and the amount to be spent over the next six fiscal years for these projects, unless otherwise indicated. Each section includes a discussion of measurable operating budget impacts for the major projects included in the capital budget. For more information, the reader should consult the FY2004-2009 Capital Improvement Program.

EDUCATION AND HUMAN SERVICES

The Education and Human Services category consists of capital projects for the Board of Education, the Memorial Library, the Prince George's Community College, and the Health Department.

The Capital Budget for the Board of Education contains thirty-four projects for a total FY2004 cost of \$129 million. At the secondary level, funds are included for one new replacement high school, the design of six high school additions, and the completion of a high school. At the elementary level, the capital budget includes construction funds for eight new or renovated schools. As well, funds are included for several infrastructure maintenance projects.

The FY2004 Capital Budget includes three projects for the Community College and four for the Library. The Community College projects involve the replacement of major building components and the renovation of several College buildings. The Library projects contain funds for renovating and upgrading major building components

throughout the system, as well as funds for modernizations at individual branch libraries. There is one Health Department project in the capital budget that will convert an administrative facility into clinic space.

Project Highlights - Project highlights include projects appearing in the Capital Budget or the six-year Capital Improvement Program. Unless indicated, project costs shown represent the total project cost, i.e., the amount programmed in the six-year Capital Budget, as well as amounts previously spent.

Board of Education

Colmar Manor Elementary School (\$15,113,000) - This project consists of the construction of a new elementary school in the Hyattsville area. The projected enrollment is 790 students. This school will be ready to open the middle of the 2003-2004 school year.

Homer Avenue Elementary School (\$15,867,000) - This project consists of the construction of a new elementary school in the Suitland area. The projected enrollment is 790 students. This school will open for the 2004-2005 school year.

Greater Capitol Heights Elementary School (\$19,357,000) - This project consists of the construction of a new elementary school in the Capitol Heights area. The school will be combined with a Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission-funded community center. This school is scheduled to open for the 2004-2005 school year.

Samuel P. Massie Elementary School (\$19,312,000) - This project consists of the construction of a new elementary school in the Suitland area. The school will be combined with a Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission funded-community center. This school will open for the 2003-2004 school year.

Community College

Bladen Hall Student Services Renovation (\$6,671,000) - This project will modernize the student services building space and provide an updated "entrance way" to the College.

Lanham Hall and Bladen Science Wing (\$4,431,000) - This project provides for the renovation of the space that formerly housed the science program at the college.

Library

Library Branch Renovations (\$875,000 in FY2004) - This project provides funds for the updating and renovation of branch libraries to include roof and carpet repairs.

Oxon Hill Branch Library (\$4,447,000) - This project consists of the expansion of the Sojourner Truth Room and renovations to the remainder of the building.

Operating Impact

In FY2004, three new elementary schools will open, one in September and two at mid-year. In addition, three school classroom addition projects will open. The total impact of these openings on the FY2004 Operating Budget is approximately \$3.1 million.

ENVIRONMENTAL

The environmental program category consists entirely of capital projects for the Department of Environmental Resources and is comprised of stormwater management and solid waste management facilities.

The FY2004 Capital Budget for the Department of Environmental Resources consists of 7 projects, costing a total of \$23 million. Stormwater management funding provides for the construction of water quality control basins and

dams, flood-proofing or demolition of flood-prone homes, and installation of water quality control devices. Funds for solid waste management will be used to construct the County's landfills, purchase landfill buffer property and continue the County's recycling program.

Project Highlights

Stormwater Management

COE County Restoration (\$969,000 in FY2004) - This project will involve the design and construction of environmental enhancements and flood control projects within the Anacostia River Flood Control Channel. The County is participating in this project with the US Army Corps of Engineers (COE).

Environmental Protection Program (\$2,928,000 in FY2004) - This project will retrofit multiple facilities within various County watersheds with water quality control devices, and rehabilitate streams and wetlands to limit pollutant discharges.

Environmental Revitalization (\$2,354,000 in FY2004) - This program entails using new and creative technologies to restore, monitor, model, and protect the environment in urbanized settings, with emphasis on pollution prevention, water quality improvement, flood control and the creation of wetlands.

Flood Protection and Drainage Improvement (\$2,534,000 in FY2004) - This project consists of flood protection and drainage relief projects where the estimated cost is less than \$500,000. Its purpose is to correct residential flooding, erosion and street flooding problems.

Flood Prone Acquisition Program (\$750,000 in FY2004) - This project will facilitate environmental restoration and economic revitalization through the acquisition of flood prone commercial, industrial and residential properties.

Major Reconstruction Program (\$1,978,000 in FY2004) - This project provides for the renovation of deteriorating culverts, channels, levees and dams in connection with road improvement projects.

Solid Waste Management

Brown Station Road Landfill Buffer Zone (\$500,000 in FY2004) - Additional parcels of land adjacent to the existing landfill will be acquired to expand the visual buffer from landfill operations.

Brown Station Landfill Construction (\$5,456,000 in FY2004) - This project develops the second half of the present site by paving access roads, expanding the landfill gas system, extending water mains, and improving sewer drainage at equipment crossings. The project also funds the landfill liner, wetlands mitigation, storage, pretreatment and discharge facilities, and the closing of completed landfill cells in accordance with Federal and State regulations.

Waste Transfer Station (\$1,500,000 in FY2004) - This project provides for the design and construction of a solid waste transfer station to service the northern portion of the County.

Sandy Hill Sanitary Landfill (\$10,084,000 in FY2004) - This project provides for the closure costs associated with closing the Sandy Hill Sanitary Landfill, and the construction of facilities to maintain it after closure.

Operating Impact

Individual environmental projects in the stormwater category do not in and of themselves add significantly to agency operating costs. When taken in aggregate, however, the addition of thousands of feet of new storm drain and numerous holding and detention ponds does have operational impacts. The grounds around flood control systems, drainage channels, retention basins and storm drain easements must be maintained in connection with the new construction. Catch basins and main lines must be cleaned and kept clear of debris, as well. Experience has shown that a formula using a percentage of total project construction cost can serve as a guide to operating impacts. Based on this

formula, the stormwater management capital budget of \$16.6 million can be expected to generate new annual operating expenses of approximately \$106,000 over each of the next three fiscal years. This added cost will be supported by the Stormwater Management Enterprise Fund.

The operating impact of the Brown Station Landfill Expansion will be charged to the Solid Waste Enterprise Fund rather than to the General Fund. This project carries with it the requirement for the pretreatment of leachate, with new estimated operating costs of \$1.5 million per year.

TRANSPORTATION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The transportation and economic development program category consists of capital projects for the Department of Public Works and Transportation, the Prince George's Redevelopment Authority and the Prince George's Revenue Authority.

The Capital Budget for the Department of Public Works and Transportation rebuilds existing roads and bridges, constructs new roads and parking facilities, purchases buses, and installs traffic signals. Funding comes from general obligation bonds, State and Federal aid, the Washington Suburban Transit Commission tax levy, developer contributions, special assessments and other revenues. The capital projects of the Revenue and Redevelopment Authorities have as their objective the encouragement of commercial revitalization, job creation and economic development in the County.

Project Highlights

Department Of Public Works and Transportation

Addison Road (\$20,845,000) – This two-phase project consists of the construction of Addison Road as a modified arterial roadway from Walker Mill Road to MD 214.

Ammendale & Virginia Manor Roads (\$39,627,000) - This three phase project consists of a multi-lane roadway from US-1 to I-95.

Ardwick Ardmore Road (\$7,384,000) - This project consists of the construction of a 52-foot urban roadway from MD 704 to St. Joseph's Drive.

Bridge Replacement - Various Locations (\$1,347,000 in FY2004) - This project will provide for the replacement and rehabilitation of County bridges based on State sufficiency ratings.

Curbs and Sidewalks (\$3,500,000 in FY2004) - This project replaces curbs and sidewalks throughout the County that have deteriorated over the years, and builds new sidewalks in areas of high pedestrian use.

Resurfacing and Safety Improvements (\$11,800,000 in FY2004) - This project provides for the resurfacing of County roadways and for various safety improvements.

Ritchie Road and Forestville Road (\$15,275,000) – This project consists of the widening of Ritchie Road from Alberta Drive to Marlboro Pike and the widening of Forestville Road from Marlboro Pike to Maryland Route 4.

Ritchie Marlboro Road (\$5,707,000) - This project consists of the design and construction of Ritchie Marlboro Road from west of I-95/495 to White House Road.

Ritchie Road - Section II (\$11,052,000) - This project consists of the reconstruction of Ritchie Road from Alberta Drive to Edgeworth Drive.

Surratts Road (\$4,981,000) - This project consists of upgrading Surratts Road to a collector-type roadway from Beverly Avenue to Brandywine Road.

Walker Mill Road (\$29,322,000) - This project consists of the construction of an arterial type roadway between Silver Hill Road Extended and I-95.

Operating Impact

The operating impact of the County's road and bridge capital program in most cases should be positive, serving to reduce, not increase, future operating costs. The majority of the road projects entail the widening or reconstructing of existing thoroughfares, rather than the building of new roadways. (New roads accepted into the County's road system are in most cases built by developers and are not part of the County's Capital Improvement Program.) Several major new road projects in which the County is involved, are State roads that will be maintained by the Maryland Department of Transportation. The resurfacing and the curb and sidewalk programs should reduce repair costs in the operating budget. The bridge program consists entirely of replacing or reconstructing substandard structures, and should lead to reduced rather than increased operating costs. Most parking projects are self-supporting.

PARKS AND RECREATION

The parks and recreation category consists of capital projects constructed under the auspices of the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission.

The Capital Budget contains park and recreation projects that provide facilities at the neighborhood, community, regional, and County-wide level. Within these categories are playgrounds, neighborhood parks, community centers, regional and stream valley parks, historic sites, golf courses, nature centers, and river parks. The budget is supported principally by bonds sold by the Commission and secondarily by State aid through Program Open Space. Other funding sources include developer contributions, grant funds, transfers from the Commission's operating budget, and agricultural land transfer tax revenues.

An element in the M-NCPPC's six-year capital program is its participation in the Community Park School Centers program. This effort by the Commission, the Board of Education and the County will allow the participants to work cooperatively in constructing joint use facilities. It will also provide a vehicle to channel the Commission's resources into the County's goal of making the neighborhood school the center of the community. By combining efforts, enhanced educational and recreational facilities can be constructed to better serve both students and County residents. Planning for these projects will integrate school construction with both recently completed community centers and with new centers to be built in conjunction with new schools.

Program Highlights

Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission

Bladensburg Waterfront (\$6,780,000) - This project will restore the waterfront for recreational use and include fishing piers, walkways, sitting areas, a pedestrian bridge, and a tour boat landing.

College Park Airport (\$7,875,000) - This project provides for improvements and additions to the terminal building, t-hangers, concessionaire building, and parking areas.

Community Center Renovations (\$23,600,000) - This project provides a source of funds to make major repair and building system upgrades at the Commission community and recreation centers.

Oakcrest-Greater Capitol Heights Park School (\$5,300,000) - This project consists of a community center that will be integrated and attached to the new Greater Capitol Heights Elementary School.

Watkins Regional Park (\$4,603,000) - This project consists of a new main entrance road to this regional park.

Walker Mill Regional Park (\$3,278,000) - This project will provide additional trails, picnic areas, and playgrounds to this regional park.

Operating Impact

The operating impacts of these projects are included in the budget of the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission and hence are not addressed here.

PUBLIC SAFETY AND COUNTY FACILITIES

The public safety category consists of capital projects to serve the needs of the Police and Fire Departments, the Department of Corrections, and the Courts. County facilities serving the administrative and maintenance needs of the County government are built under the auspices of the Office of Central Services.

There are no Police Department projects included in the Capital Budget. Fire Department projects in the capital budget include two station renovations, two new consolidated fire stations, a general roof replacement project, and a fire station renovation project. Funding programmed by the Office of Central Services for FY2004 provides for the renovation of the Courthouse in Upper Marlboro and various major building renovations.

Project Highlights

Public Safety

Detention Center Expansion Phase II (\$6,036,000) - This project consists of the renovation of the existing administrative area and the construction of an administrative building.

District 7 Police Station (\$3,500,000) - This project consists of the construction of a new police station in the southern portion of the County to service the growing population in this area.

Bunker Hill Fire Station (\$7,810,000) - This project consists of a replacement fire station for three existing stations located in Brentwood, Mt. Rainier, and Cottage City/Colmar Manor. Station is expected to open by the end of FY03 but project closing costs will carry over to FY04.

Prince George's County Courthouse - (\$22,408,000) - This project provides for the renovation of the Duvall Wing of the Courthouse.

District Heights/Hillside Consolidation (\$3,367,000) - This project provides for a replacement fire station for two existing stations in District Heights and Hillside.

Operating Impact

The consolidation of three fire companies into the new Bunker Hill Station is expected to result in annual savings of \$220,000 per year.

Other County Facilities

Animal Management Facility (\$5,000,000) - This project consists of the construction of a replacement animal management facility.

County Buildings-Major Renovations (\$9,683,000 in FY2004) - This project provides for major renovations to County-occupied space. Major undertakings will include renovations to the County Administration Building and the Central Communications Facility.

Operating Impact

The renovation of current County facilities will not require additional staff or provide additional space to maintain.